

ESTHER BROWN.

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JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. LOUDENSLAGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3252.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3252) increasing the pension of Esther Brown, have considered the same and report:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate Report No. 1151, this session, and the same fully setting forth the facts is adopted by your committee as their report, and the bill is returned with a favorable recommendation.

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[Senate Report No. 1151, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3252) granting a pension to Esther Brown, have examined the same and report:

The bill proposes to increase petitioner's pension from \$8 per month, which she now receives, to \$12 per month.

The papers in the case show that said petitioner is now pensioned under the act of January 29, 1887, as the widow of James Brown, late a captain Company C, Mormon Battalion Volunteers, Mexican war, and that said officer served in this organization in the rank stated from July 14, 1846, to July 16, 1847, at which date his regiment was mustered out. The evidence in the case proves that the claimant was married to the deceased about 1842 and remained his lawful wife until his death in 1863, and that she has since been his widow. As a widow of a survivor of the Mexican war, she draws a pension of \$8 per month, and after the act of January 5, 1893, became effective she applied thereunder for the \$12 rate, but was denied same because the said act was held to include only the survivors, although there existed in her case all the conditions, save sex, necessary to devolve title.

She was "wholly unable to perform any manual labor, and in such destitute circumstances that the sum of \$8 per month is [was] insufficient to provide him [her] with the necessaries of life." In 1893 the claimant made oath that such was her condition, and such, apparently, it still is. She is 82 years of age and can not long enjoy the bounty of the Government, and as Congress by enacting the measure of January 5, 1893, recognized the urgency of relief in the cases of such survivors as might be wholly unable to labor, and in such destitute circumstances as to be unable to secure the necessaries of life, it impresses the committee that the exigency is equally as great where, as in this instance, there is added the subordination of sex and the burden of age.

In the cases, H. R. 4182, Georgiana C. Hull; H. R. 6037, Amanda Woodcock, and S. 149, Helen M. Jacobs, favorably passed upon this session by the House Committee on Pensions (in each the rate is \$12 and the service of the soldier in the Mexican war), precedents for indorsing this bill are found, and therefore the committee recommend its passage.